

# Gator Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND → 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA → JUNE 2002



47th Fighter Squadron -  
Member continues to search for those  
missing in action

93rd Bomb Squadron -  
Reserve bombers go 'covert'

917th Wing and 307th RED HORSE -  
Goodbye to Col. Haulman

Cinco De Mayo: 917th Wing recruiter puts the finishing touches on display



## Getting the message across

It wasn't all that long ago when my squadron members and I waited for the secretary to go home so we could try out her amazing correctable typewriter. Glory! No more use of correction paper or white-out, or starting all over when you tripped on the last line of that piece that had to be perfect. You just backspaced and couldn't tell there had ever been a mark.

Soon after, the base got a new phone system, no longer spending hours, or days trying to get an AUTOVON line. What a blessing!

Today, those memories seem like the Stone Age.

We've come so far in communications in recent years! The phones always work, and we can transmit documents—even entire regulations—electronically. We can spell and grammar-check messages and send them at the speed of light.

Obviously, our ability to *communicate* has improved by leaps and bounds.

But has our skill at *communicating* really kept up? Sure we can send out our thoughts as fast as they pass through our minds, but we're still lacking a toolbar button labeled "check spelling, grammar, logic and sanity." We're stuck with the same three basic elements of communication that apply now as they did when we hand-carried our messages to the base Communication Center.

Specifically, we still require a clear message, a capable sender, and a receiver. To wit, my personal favorite: "I don't

know what went wrong...I sent them an e-mail!!!" Any guesses as to the missing element in this attempt at communication?

We've all seen some prize-winners in this category, the following which were committed by corporate managers: "E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business." Or, "We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees." Even better, "This is a memo to inform you that a memo will be issued today regarding the memo mentioned above."

Wow! How far we've come, yet how challenging it still is to get the correct meaning across. Getting the three basic ingredients in the right combination still takes more than the most capable computer. Communication skills have to be practiced and polished, or we continue to run around misled and uninformed. Take a closer look at your message before you hit the send button. Put yourself in the receiver's chair and see if you're really saying what you want to say; everybody will be better off.



**Col. Richard Volden**  
Operations Group  
commander

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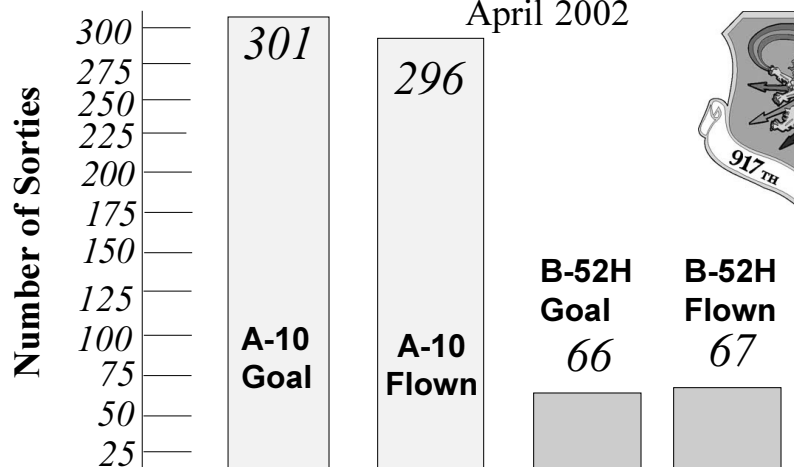


### Case Lot Sale to be held on June UTA

The Barksdale Commissary is providing the 917<sup>th</sup> Wing with a Case Lot Sale in the Wing parking lot on June 9 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Items for sale will include paper products (paper towels, bathroom tissue), juices, coffee, sodas and much more. So mark your calendars and don't miss out on this golden opportunity to save money!

### 917<sup>th</sup> Wing Sortie Scoreboard

April 2002



**A-10 Mission Capable Rate 81.2%**

**B-52H Mission Capable Rate 65.5%**

**AFRC Goal 75%**

**AFRC Goal 65%**

## Gator Gazette

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**Front Cover Photo:**  
Staff Sgt. Mathew Lucas, 917th Wing line recruiter, puts the finishing touches on the recruiting display "model" at the Cinco De Mayo festival in May. The display was set up as a recruiting tool and to increase the public's awareness of the Air Force Reserve. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)

# Reserve bombers go 'covert'

## New lighting makes B-52 invisible

**Story by Tech. Sgt. Terrell Eikner**  
**93rd Bomb Squadron UPAR**

The 93rd Bomb Squadron announced the completion of work on the first B-52 aircraft modified with covert lighting on March 15. The Boeing Corporation, makers of the B-52, oversaw the modification and provided technical assistance.

The modification allows aircraft flown at night in a combat zone to be seen by friendly aircraft while remaining invisible to enemy ground forces, according to Master Sgt. Christopher A. Sholar, 93 BS aircraft electrical and environmental systems mechanic.

"When we go into night combat now, we just turn off all our outside lights and become a black hole," said Lt. Col. Michael A. Castellani, 917th Operations Support Flight commander. "The friendly air forces know we are there, but they can't visually see us from any considerable distance."

The covert lighting modification not only added infrared lights to the B-52, but also modified its normal external lighting. Old, expensive rotating beacons and light sockets were replaced with less expensive, state-of-the-art strobe light flashers and light emitting diodes. "The cost savings alone in maintaining the technology of rotating beacons and light sockets in normal day-to-day operations will pay for the covert lighting modifications in a few years," Castellani said.

The covert lighting modification allows the aircraft to fit more fully into the "integrated package" used in a combat zone, according to Castellani. "We don't want to fight the next war with the last war's technol-



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SHERRI SAVANT

**Master Sgt. Christopher Sholar, 93 BS aircraft electrical and environmental systems mechanic, tests the new covert lighting system to make certain it is working properly.**

ogy," said Castellani. "We want to train with the idea of what we think may happen in the next area of responsibility."

The 93rd Bomb Squadron plans to modify one more aircraft this year for covert lighting. Once all testing is complete, Air Combat Command and Air Force Reserve Command will review a testing report. If the modification is approved for permanent installation, the entire B-52 fleet, both here at Barksdale and at Minot AFB, will be modified with covert lighting over the next five to ten years.

## Air Force releases specialties from Stop Loss

Air Force officials announced the release of several more Air Force Specialty Codes from Stop-Loss measures. The following AFSCs are affected in the 917th Wing:

Officers: 11B, 11F, 14N, 21A, 21L, 21T, 31P, 32E, 33S, 34M, 35P, 36M, 36P, 41A, 42E, 44G, 44F, 44M, 44P, 45A, 45B, 45S, 46M, 46N, 47G, 48G, 52R, 81T, 86P and 87G.

Enlisted: 2A390, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E6X1, 3S1X1, 3S2X1, 3V0X1, 4A0X1, 4C0X1, 4D0X1, 4N1X1, 4P0X1, 4R0X1, 4T0X1, 4V0X1, 4Y0X1, 5J0X1, 6C0X1, 8A100 and 8C000.

Reservists who are voluntarily or involuntarily on active duty in support of either Operation Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom will not be released until they return from deployment or are demobilized. (AFPN)

## In the news.....

### Procedures change for MGIB recipients

Members receiving reserve Montgomery GI Bill benefits will be required to **call in each month to certify the amount of semester hours currently being taken beginning June 1.** Members need to call **1-877-823-2378 or 1-888-442-4551 (choose option one on the telephone menu)** to receive benefits for the previous month. Checks will not be released to those who fail to make the call. Certification can be done no earlier than the first day of the next month.

For more information, contact Verendia Sanders at 456-9247.

### Information update on MGIB

The information reported on the Montgomery GI Bill in the May *Gator Gazette* referring to the extension of benefits from 10 to 14 years has not been approved. Further announcements will be made as new information becomes available.

### First Sergeant position available

The 917th Mission Support Squadron is looking for a new first sergeant. Anyone interested in this position should contact Lt. Col. Marilyn Alston, 917 MSS commander, at 456-7284 or Master Sgt. Denise Aldrich, 917 MSS first sergeant, at 456-9016.

Resumes need to be turned in no later than close of business June 9. Interviews will be conducted July 13-14, with a projected start date of the August unit training assembly.

### DoD approves service medal

Air Force reservists who serve in good standing in the selected reserve on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are now eligible to wear the National Defense Service Medal.

The selected reserve consists of Category A reservists in Air Force Reserve Command units and Category B reservists in the Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program.

In addition to active-duty personnel and reservists in the selected reserve, members of services other than the selected reserve serving on active duty may also be eligible for the medal.

Disqualifying factors include: if on active duty for the sole purpose of undergoing a physical examination; members of the Individual Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve or Retired Reserve whose active-duty service is for training only; or those on active duty to serve on boards, courts or commissions.

Eligible members wear the basic ribbon for the initial award of the medal. Additional awards of the medal are denoted by bronze service stars. No closing date has been established for the current award period. Reservists who have questions about the medal should contact Master Sgt. Mary Castro at 456-9806.

### Honor our heroes on July 4

A celebration for all men and women in the military is scheduled for July 4 from 5 to 9 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church recreation complex, located on Linwood Ave., in Shreveport.

Activities planned for the event include a space walk, a mega slide, a softball tournament and a spectacular fireworks show at 8:45 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact Chris

Young by phone at 687-4920, fax at 687-4925, or e-mail at [cyoung@calvaryshreveport.org](mailto:cyoung@calvaryshreveport.org).

### Top Three host induction ceremony

Barksdale AFB Top Three is hosting the second Senior Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony on Friday, July 19, at 6 p.m., in Hoban Hall. The ceremony is for all master sergeants who were promoted between August 1, 2001 and July 1, 2002. The dinner is buffet style. Cost of tickets is \$17. Uniform will be mess dress for military members and semi-formal or appropriate civilian attire for non-military guests.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Mayweather at 456-9859 or Master Sgt. Tamara Stephens at 456-1003.

### MUNS Flight tees up for softball game

The 917th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight will split into teams and play softball on Saturday, June 8 at 4:30 p.m., in the baseball field north of 8th Air Force Museum. For more information, contact Senior Master Sgt. Clint Cates at 456-7069.

### Inman retires from 307 RHS this UTA

A retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Louis Inman, cantonments manager for the 307th RED HORSE Squadron, is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, at 4 p.m., in the LeMay Auditorium. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Steve McCutcheon at 456-4891.

### Blood drive to be held during UTA

A blood drive is scheduled on Saturday, June 8, in the Wing parking lot from noon to 3 p.m. Donations are encouraged.

### Beat the heat by using the 7Rs

**Recognize** early signs and symptoms of heat illness:

weakness, tiredness, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, disorientation, confusion, inability to work, red in color. (When in doubt, treat as a heat injury.)

**Rest** the heat injury-stricken soldier in the shade to cool down.

**Remove** clothing.

**Resuscitate** with cardiopulmonary resuscitation if the soldier has collapsed (heartbeat and/or breathing stopped). (If unsure about the correct technique, get someone who knows.)

**Reduce** the victim's body temperature as fast as possible by applying a wet towel or by pouring water on his body.

**Rehydrate** the soldier if he is conscious, by giving him water.

**Rush** the soldier to the nearest medical facility.

(Information provided by Master Sgt. Harry Bauer, 917th Wing Ground Safety NCO)

# Haulman bids Air Force 'goodbye'

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant  
Wing Public Affairs**

The 917<sup>th</sup> Wing and 307<sup>th</sup> RED HORSE Squadron said 'goodbye' to one of its most treasured assets. Col. David Haulman, Det 1 307 RHS commander, retired after serving 30 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

"Col. Haulman has been a tremendous asset to this Wing and the Air Force Reserve for the past 17 years, and will be missed," said Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle, 917 WG commander.

Haulman, a pilot with more than 1,000 flying hours in T-37s, T-38s and KC-135s, entered the Air Force in 1972, after gaining his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Haulman served as commander of the 307 RHS since May of last year. Prior to that, he was a civil engineer officer with the 917<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, assuming the role of commander in June 1996 and remaining there until March 2001.

He also served five years active-duty here at Barksdale as a having more time to relax.

pilot and aircraft commander with the 913<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron and as a civil engineer officer with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron from June 1973 to September 1978.

Throughout his career, Haulman was awarded numerous medals and commendations.

"Col. Haulman is a very fair and non-judgmental leader," said Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Wooten, 307 RHS first sergeant. "His ideas and beliefs will have a lasting effect on me as the first sergeant and as a member of this organization."

"Col. Haulman is a class act, and will be remembered for his quiet but firm demeanor," said Lt. Col. Steve McCutcheon, 307 RHS senior air reserve technician and director of operations.

"If you look up citizen soldier in the dictionary, you should see his photo."

Haulman said he plans to re-learn the game of golf and do a little fishing now that he is retired. He said although he enjoyed the Reserve, he is looking forward to



**Col. David Haulman, Det 1 307 RHS commander, shakes the hand of Chief Master Sgt. Russ Wilkinson, 917 CES operations and maintenance supervisor, during Haulman's retirement May 5.**

## Reservists join 917th Wing

Ten new reservists joined the 917th Wing. They will attend the newcomers' briefing and then join their respective squadrons.

### 47th Fighter Squadron

Maj. Bryan Boyles, Highlands Ranch, Co. Senior Airman Esteban Mejia, Jr., Bossier City, La.

### 917th Medical Squadron

Staff Sgt. Robert Bowen, Glendale, Az. Staff Sgt. Teresa Broxson, Paris, Texas Capt. Mark Cimino, Shreveport, La.

### 917th Maintenance Squadron

Airman 1st Class Randy Morrow, Mineloa, Texas Senior Airman William Thomas, Converse, Texas Senior Airman Richard Rockett, Rayville, La.

### 917th Civil Engineer Squadron

Airman Glenys Lakatos, Barksdale AFB, La.

## 917th Logistics Support Squadron Senior Airman Sterling Ward, Watauga, Texas

## Wing members promoted

The following individuals were promoted as of May 1.

**To Airman** - Lacrysal Fuller, 917th Logistics Group; Quenekus Moss, 917th Mission Support Squadron; Brandon Norris, 917th Civil Engineer Squadron.

**To Airman First Class** - Shonda Lloyd, 917 MSS; Alphonzo Smith, 917 LG.

**To Senior Airman** - David Allen, 917th Maintenance Squadron; Sarah Calhoun, 917th Security Forces Squadron; Joey Chaney, 917 SFS; Edward Corkern, 47th Fighter Squadron; Curtis Downey, 93rd Bomb Squadron; Terrence Edmonds, 917 SFS; Coidentz Fox 47 FS; Aaron Munn, 917 MXS; Andrew Nation, 307th RED HORSE Squadron.

**To Staff Sergeant** - Sharon Carson, 917 MXS; Clay Dotson, 917 LG; Stephen Glass, 93 BS; Christopher Kaleta, 917 LG; Angela Lewis, 917 LG; Sherri Savant, 917 MSS; Lynnette Shonk, 93 BS; Paul Trosclair, 93 BS.

**To Technical Sergeant** - Edwin Black, 307 RHS; Veronica Brice, 917 MXS; Samuel Butler, 307 RHS; Robert Carter, 93 BS; Travis Cothron, 917 MSS; Louis Hereford, 917 MSS; Xavier Horton, 917 CES; Richard Kimbrell, 917 MSS; Antonio Ochoa, 307 RHS; Kary Szyska, 917 MSS; Gregory Washington, 307 RHS; Stephen Windmann, 917 MXS.

**To Master Sergeant** - Billy Cliff, 917 MXS; Bobby Deshotel, Jr., 917 MXS; Michelle Gathright, 917 LG; Johnnie Gilbert, Jr., 93 BS; David Gordon, 93 BS.

**To Senior Master Sergeant** - McEntry Dunbar, 917 MSS; Donata Lins, 93 BS.

**To Major** - Robert Bay, 93 BS; Chris Evers, 917 MXS; Michael Falcon, 307 RHS; John Farraro, 917 CES; Eldon Henrikson, 917th Communications Flight; Michael Mather, 93 BS; Kevin McCue, 307 RHS; Michael Ramsey, 917th Medical Squadron; Allen Smith, 917 MDS; William Stinchcomb, 93 BS; Thaldaris Talley, 917 SFS.

Congratulations to all! Keep up the good work!

Ten years, 3,500 case investigations and 600 recovery operations later...

# The search continues for those missing

Story by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant  
Wing Public Affairs

The Vietnam War ended over 30 years ago and still there are 2000 missing in action. In 1992, the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting started a mission to bring fallen American comrades home from that war in Southeast Asia. After 10 years and 131 missions, over 350 Americans have been accounted for.

The task force was created in response to presidential, congressional and public interest, as well as an increased willingness of the governments of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to share information they have regarding unaccounted-for Americans from the Vietnam Conflict.

Senior Master Sgt. Billy Beard, 47<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron life support supervisor, recently completed his fifth trip to Southeast Asia as a volunteer member of the JTF-FA in search of those missing in action. "I went for the first time four years ago," said Beard, "and after five trips I will go again if they need me."

"I've been to Laos and all the way from Hanoi to Saigon, on the coast and in the mountains, as well as in-country," said Beard. "My last mission took me to Nha Trang in March. We went in search of a helicopter crash site (a crash site from 1971) to recover any remains."

A typical mission in search of those missing may be comprised of 30 to 95 personnel, depending on the needs of the mission, and lasts approximately 35 days. "The team leader is usually an officer, whose job is to negotiate with the Vietnamese government for the work being done," said Beard. "A mortuary affairs person, usually from the Army, handles supplies and site set-up. An anthropologist, a linguist, a medic and someone from life support (from any branch of military service) also go." Beard's job, on each trip, is to keep the anthropologist going in the correct direction of the crash site.

Many of the missing Americans were pilots or other aircrew members who were lost when their aircraft crashed or was shot down. "There is no way to positively identify the remains when



Senior Master Sgt. Billy Beard, 47th Fighter Squadron life support supervisor, reaches down into the sandy river bottom, in hopes of finding remains.



we find them," Beard said, but adds, "The remains are shipped to Hawaii (Central Identification Laboratory located at Hickam AFB), where they do their magic and properly identify them."

After more than 3,500 case investigations and 600 recovery operations that have led to the repatriation of remains that may relate to as many as 500 unaccounted-for Americans, the

People line up with buckets of sand for the sand to be put through the wet-screening process.

# g in action



COURTESY PHOTOS

supervisor and volunteer with the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, s of those missing in action.

search continues. JTF-FA remains committed to continuing the investigation and recovery efforts until the fullest possible accounting of those missing is achieved.

Beard hopes to travel to Cambodia the next time he is called upon. "It's one heck of an adventure, and it's the right thing to do," said Beard. "I was once asked what the best and worst part of my trips were. I responded by saying, 'The best part is when we find bones; the worst part is when we don't.'"

Beard pours a bucket of sand onto the screen, while the gentleman on the left pours water onto the screen to make the sand go through in a process referred to as wet screening. They hope to find the remains of those missing in action.



## Accounted-for Americans

(recovered and positively identified since 1973)

Vietnam	481
Laos	163
Cambodia	25
China	2
Total	671

## Unaccounted-for Americans

(Americans unaccounted for from the war in Southeast Asia)

	Vietnam	Laos	Cambodia	China	Total
Army	471	99	26	0	596
Navy	362	28	1	8	399
Air Force	372	249	18	0	639
Marine Corps	217	16	8	0	241
Coast Guard	1	0	0	0	1
Civilians	21	12	5	0	38
Total	1,444	404	58	8	1,914

## Missions completed or in progress

	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02
Vietnam	4	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	2
Laos	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	2
Cambodia	3	4	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
China	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	17	16	13	14	11	11	11	10	10	5

## Number of remains repatriated

	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02
Vietnam	35	82	61	35	21	22	29	22	17	16	2
Laos	9	41	27	20	11	7	16	12	7	10	1
Cambodia	17	7	2	8	3	1	2	2	0	1	1
Total	61	130	90	63	35	30	47	36	24	27	4



# Plan for the future with TSP

**Story by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant**  
**Wing Public Affairs**

The Thrift Savings Plan is a retirement savings and investment plan that is available to both civilian employees of the federal government, as well as members of the uniformed services to include those in the guard and reserve.

Two periods of enrollment, "open seasons," are offered each year, the first period dating from May 15 to July 31, and the other from November 15 to January 31.

## How much can I contribute?

Civilians employed by the federal government can contribute up to 12 percent of their income each time they get paid. Uniformed services employees can contribute up to seven percent each time they get paid.

Uniformed services personnel may also contribute all or any whole percentage of any special or incentive pay (including re-enlistment or other bonuses) they receive. However, the total amount contributed each year cannot exceed the Internal Revenue Code's elective deferral limit (\$11,000 for 2002).

If you are an air reserve technician or a reservist who is currently activated, and you have a civilian TSP account (or another qualified employer plan described under sections 401(k), 403(b) or 408(k) of the Internal Revenue Code), the total of all your contributions to all of your plans cannot exceed the IRC's elective deferral limit.

## How does the TSP differ from the Military Retirement System?

Participation in the TSP is optional and not automatic. You

must sign up with your service to participate in the TSP. You contribute to the TSP from your own pay on a pre-tax basis, and the amount you contribute and the earnings attributable to your contributions belong to you. They are yours to keep even if you do not serve the 20 years ordinarily necessary to receive military retired pay.

Military retired pay is a defined benefit program. This means that the benefit you receive from the military retirement system is based on your years of service and the rank you hold at the time of your retirement, rather than on the amount of your contributions and earnings.

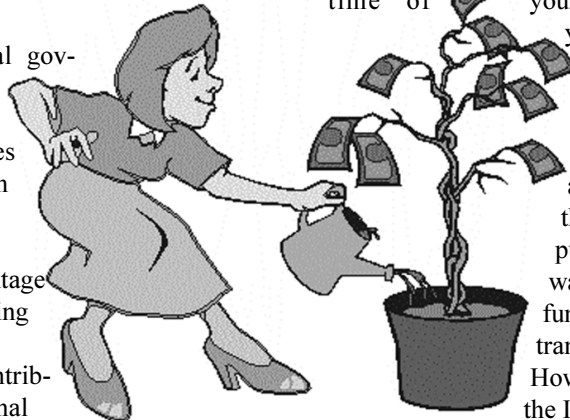
## What if I have two accounts (civilian and uniformed services)?

If you have both a civilian TSP account and a uniformed services TSP account, they will be treated separately for most purposes. This means, for example, if you want to move your money among investment funds, you must submit two interfund transfer requests, one for each account. However, the accounts will be combined for the IRC's elective deferral limit on contributions and in determining the amount you are eligible to borrow from the TSP.

## Where can I get more information on TSP?

Enrollment forms are available on the TSP Web site <http://www.tsp.gov/forms/index-forms.html>, or in 917th Mission Support Squadron Customer Service, Bldg. 6803, Rm. 140.

(Information for this article was found on the TSP Web site and received from Tech. Sgt. Lenka Isaac, 917th Wing Family Support Center)



# Savings bonds are the way to go!

**Story by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant**  
**Wing Public Affairs**

Whether you are saving for a new home, car, vacation, education, retirement or for a rainy day, U.S. savings bonds can help you reach your goal.

Representatives will be on hand at sign-in locations throughout the Wing June 8-9 to provide information and assistance to anyone interested in purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds.

There are seven primary reasons why savings bonds are the way to go:

## 1. Bonds are easy to buy!

There are two types of bonds available: EE bonds, which accrue interest during the time the bond is held, increasing the redemption value; and I bonds, an accrual-type security—meaning interest is added to the bond monthly, and paid when the bond is cashed. You can also buy savings bonds with an automatic deduction from your bank account. You pay no fees or commission!

## 2. Bonds are safe and secure!

U.S. Savings Bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Bonds can be replaced if lost, stolen or destroyed, as long as it can be established that the bonds haven't

been cashed in, or, if cashed have been paid in error to the wrong person.

## 3. Bonds are a market-based investment!

The Series EE savings bonds you buy today will earn market-based rates for 30 years.

## 4. Bonds are a liquid long-term investment!

Your investment will grow for 30 years, but bonds can be cashed anytime after six months.

## 5. Bonds can be used for education savings!

U.S. Savings Bonds may provide tax savings when used to finance higher education through the "Education Bond Program." This program allows interest to be completely or partially excluded from federal income tax when the bond owner pays qualified higher education expenses. Qualified higher education expenses include lab fees and other required course expenses.

## 6. Bonds have tax advantages!

Interest earned on U.S. Savings Bonds is exempt from state and local income tax. You can also defer paying federal income tax on the interest until you cash your bond or until it stops earning interest in 30 years.

**7. Bonds are good for America!** For additional information, contact Lt. Stu Martin at 456-8954.



# Reserve offers range of educational benefits

Story and photo by Senior Airman Shannon Collins  
Wing Public Affairs

Classes. Books. Lab fees.

Airmen and officers can learn how to minimize their education costs through the use of various programs. From the Montgomery GI Bill and Tuition Assistance to Career Development Courses to DANTES tests, the Wing Education and Training Office staff provides forms, counseling and assistance to reservists.

"We are here to help reservists be all they can be," said Master Sgt. William Thorne, 917<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron education training technician. "Education helps people become well rounded. It not only helps them with their Air Force career but with their civilian job as well. We help reservists with their education questions and try to point them in the right direction."

Thorne said 80 to 90 reservists visit the office each month. Senior Airman LaToya Dorsey, 917 MSS military personnel clerk, said the educational benefits are one of the main reasons she joined the Air Force Reserve.

"The educational benefits are very important, especially for people who can't afford tuition," said Dorsey, who plans to use her Montgomery GI Bill to achieve a degree in physical therapy from Bossier Parish Community College. "I needed help with the money for school, and I wanted to serve my country, so I joined the Air Force Reserve."

Airman Amanda McAdams, 917 MSS military personnel clerk, is using the tuition assistance program to pursue a bachelor's degree in graphic design at Louisiana Tech. She also said that the education benefits were one of the main reasons she joined the Reserve.

"Education helps so much with a person's future plans," said McAdams. "The support from the education office has been outstanding."

Reservists can learn about a variety of programs available to them through the Wing Education and Training Office.

With some exceptions, Reservists are eligible to receive the Montgomery GI Bill for 10 years from the date of their first six-year enlistment in the Reserve or Air National Guard. For people just leaving active duty, the eligibility runs out 10 years from their date of separation.

To qualify for the benefit, Reservists must have a six-year

obligation to serve in the Reserve and serve in good standing in a drilling selected reserve unit or program. The program pays \$272 per month for full-time students and those enrolled full time in a cooperative program.

An apprenticeship or on-the-job training program offered by a company or union provides an alternative to college or vocational school while helping employees gain experience in their chosen field. The selected reserve benefit is \$204 the first six months, \$149.60 for the second six months and \$95.20 for the remainder of the program.



**Master Sgt. William Thorne, 917 MSS education training technician, assists Airman Amanda McAdams, 917 MSS customer service technician, in processing the proper paperwork to receive reimbursement for her college classes. McAdams is pursuing a bachelor's degree at Louisiana Tech.**

The Montgomery GI Bill Kicker is a supplemental educational allowance of up to \$350 for each month that the military services may offer to encourage MGIB-selected reserve members to fill critical specialties, skills or units. Airmen in the following critical career fields are eligible for this benefit: linguist debriefer/interrogator, medical services, civil engineering, munitions and weapons, transportation vehicle maintenance, fuels, manned aerospace maintenance, aircrew protection, intelligence and aircrew operations.

The basic tuition assistance benefit offers 75 percent tuition reimbursement, not to exceed \$187.50 per semester hour, \$125 per quarter hour, with a maximum, cumulative benefit not to exceed \$3,500 in one fiscal year. Reimbursement for a three-semester hour course cannot exceed \$562.50. This benefit cannot be used for the same class as the Montgomery GI Bill or MGIB Kicker.

Students receive the reimbursement after successfully completing their classes that apply credit toward obtaining a degree. Enlisted reservists must have 24 months remaining on their service commitment, and officers may request assistance for graduate-level courses if their mandatory separation date is not less than 24 months from the course start date to enjoy this benefit.

Another option for reservists is the College-Level-Examination Program. Cost-free CLEP tests offer a means of obtaining college credits without having to attend classes.

Pamphlets, handouts and forms concerning the various educational programs are available. For more information, visit the Education and Training Office Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., or during the unit training assembly on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or call 456-8066.

## Voices: Have you seen the flag flown disrespectfully since the events of September 11?



**Tech. Sgt. Loranda Williams**  
917th Logistics Support Squadron

"No. It's great how Americans have been coming together."



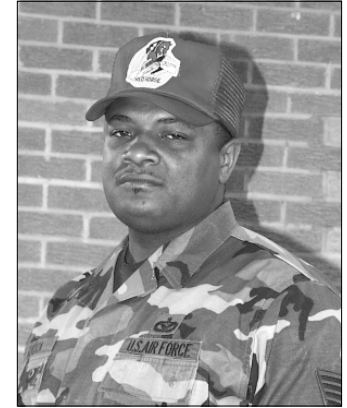
**Senior Airman Lisa Catron**  
917th Medical Squadron

"No. I am glad that everyone is showing their support."



**Tech. Sgt. James Hill**  
917th Civil Engineer Squadron

"No. In fact, many more homes in my neighborhood are now proudly displaying our flag."



**Tech. Sgt. Jerry Gordon**  
307th RED HORSE Squadron

"No. I enjoy seeing the flag displayed and hearing the national anthem played."

## June 14: Fly it high on Flag Day

*Fly the flag with respect and pride always*

Story by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant  
Wing Public Affairs

The American Flag continues to fly as a sign of strength and defiance to the 'Axis of Evil,' who tried unsuccessfully to break the American spirit last Sept. 11. Flags can now be seen waving on homes, cars and businesses throughout the country nearly every day. The idea of a Flag Day is believed to have originated in 1885, when B.J. Cigrand, a school teacher arranged for the pupils in a Wisconsin Public School, to observe the 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official adoption of the stars and stripes as 'Flag Birthday.' Four years later, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York.

President Woodrow Wilson officially established a proclamation, in celebration of the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777, in May 1916. Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, but it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day.

### How to properly display the U.S. flag

- Raise the flag briskly; lower it ceremoniously.
- Do not fly the flag in bad weather, unless it is an all-weather flag.
- Never let the flag touch the floor or ground.
- Fly the flag only in the daytime, unless it is properly illuminated.
- The flag should always be allowed to fall free.
- Never fly the flag upside down except to signal an emergency.
- Do not use the flag to cover a table or for clothing.
- Fold the flag carefully when you put it away.

### When to display the U.S. Flag

New Year's Day	Flag Day
Inauguration Day (every fourth year)	Independence Day
Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday	Labor Day
President's Day	Constitution Day
Easter Sunday	Columbus Day
Mother's Day	Veteran's Day
Armed Forces Day	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Christmas Day

### For your thoughts...

"You folks have left husbands, wives, sons, daughters, moms, dads, girlfriends, boyfriends...to come here halfway around the world. But know this; you are part of something very, very special. At the end of this, (Operation Enduring Freedom) will be about your kids, your grandkids and their grandkids. They will know what it is to grow up in a country that is free and God-blessed, where you can do anything you are man or woman enough to do."

— Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command, while meeting with Air Force troops at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

# 917th Wing Training Schedule

June 8-9, 2002

Time	Event	Location
<b>Saturday</b>		
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0900-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0700	Physical exam (flyers)	Base hospital
0730	Physical exam (non-flyers)	Base hospital
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Family practice
0730-1430	Eye-glass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800 & 1300	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0930 & 1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1100-1200	Praise Team Rehearsal	MEFA Auditorium
1200	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 243
1200-1500	Blood drive	Wing parking lot
<b>1550-1615</b>	<b>Sign-out</b>	<b>1550--LG 1600--MXS 1610--CES, MSS, WG</b>

<b>Sunday</b>		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1300	Eye-glass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Malaria Briefing	Base theater
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1500	Wing Commander's Call	A-10 hangar
<b>1550-1615</b>	<b>Sign-out</b>	<b>1550--LG 1600--MXS 1610--CES, MSS, WG</b>

## Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

### Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna  
Master Sgt. Don Copeland  
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson  
1-800-241-4071

### Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

### Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas  
903-223-7030

### Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed  
318-683-0331

### Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land  
501-987-7188

### Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick  
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter, call Chief Master Sgt. Larry Woods, 917th Wing Recruiting at 318-456-9751.

# SERVICES

## *Military Personnel Flight*

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

### **Saturday**

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

### **Sunday**

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

### **Monday - Friday**

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service

### **Friday before the UTA**

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. All service

**NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.**

## **Base Billeting**

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservation required).

## **Chaplain**

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Friday - Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chaplain DeVaul 208-8362

Chaplain Willis 208-8360

## **Red River Dining Hall**

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45

WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - noon SES - 12:15

**NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.**

## **Family Readiness**

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

## **Military drivers license**

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

## **Lodging**

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

## **Military Pay**

Main UTA Schedule

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## **Gov. Credit Card Service**

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Main UTA - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday only)

## **Military clothing issue**

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.



## 47th Fighter Squadron takes top honors at Hawgsmoke

Story by Capt. George Worrall  
103rd Fighter Wing

The 47 FS took honor as the world's top close air support unit in competition with 17 teams from the Air National Guard, Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

The four-member team, Maj. Brady Glick, Maj. Marc Olson, Jim McCaulay and Terry McClain, took home the trophy and the honor as the world's best overall A-10 team.

Dozens of A-10 Thunderbolt II jets converged on Fort Drum, N.Y., on May 16-17 for the worldwide A-10 competition known as Hawgsmoke, which was hosted by the previous winning team from the Connecticut ANG. Sixty-two A-10 aircraft, commonly called "warthogs," represented the world's A-10 units. Crews from as far away as Germany and Korea piloted the four-member teams.

"I think what really pulled it off for us were lessons learned from the last competition," said Maj. Marc Olson, 47 FS pilot and winning team leader. "We came in second in the overall in 2000...and we really wanted to strive to be better than we were before. Our maintenance people played a really big part in making sure the jets and the weapons systems worked, so our success is a reflection on the quality work they did."

Runners-up for the team award were the 131st Fighter Squadron, Barnes Municipal Airport, Mass., in second place and the 104th Fighter Squadron, Baltimore, Md., in third place.

The competition focuses on accurately dropping bombs,

firing the maverick missile and strafing proficiency with the A-10's 30 millimeter Gatling-gun. The judges added up the individual and team scores to determine winners based on where their bombs landed and how well they shot.

"Day one was a tactical competition where they practiced employing against a target out on the field with controlled timing. Day two was live bombing and strafe [firing the A-10's Gatling gun against a target]," said Lt. Col. Landis Cook, pilot and Hawgsmoke lead judge, 118<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. Cook explained how they compared the digital tape that showed the details of the



The 47th Fighter Squadron team from Barksdale Air Force Base, La, who won the 2002 Hawgsmoke competition at Fort Drum, N.Y., pose for a team photo. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Jeremiah Macht)

mission to the video tape inside the aircraft that showed what the pilot saw, to determine accuracy.

At the awards ceremony May 18, Lt. Col. Daniel Peabody, commander, 103rd Operations Group, Connecticut ANG, explained how they decided to continue with the competition after events of September 11. One reason was the relatively small community of A-10 units who could benefit from the personal relationships that competition fosters. The other [reason] was to send the message that the A-10 doesn't have a lot of smart weapons, but has smart pilots and maintenance people who can deliver actual ordnance onto actual targets.

"Hawgsmoke captures the spirit of what being an A-10 pilot is all about," said Glick. "We're real pleased to have won the competition. It says a lot about the quality of our pilots and maintenance here at Barksdale."

### UTA Schedule

#### Main

June 8-9  
July 13-14  
Aug. 3-4  
Sept. 7-8  
Oct. 5-6  
Nov. 2-3  
Dec. 7-8  
Jan. 4-5, 2003  
Feb. 1-2  
March 1-2  
April 5-6  
May 3-4

#### Alternate

No alternate  
July 20-21  
August 17-18  
Sept. 21-22  
Oct. 19-20  
Nov. 16-17  
No alternate  
Jan. 11-12, 2003  
Feb. 8-9  
March 15-16  
April 12-13  
May 17-18

917th Wing  
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